

Proposed Wheelchairs (Short-term access) (Scotland) Bill

Introduction

A proposal for a Bill to ensure the provision of wheelchairs to anyone assessed as needing one on a short-term, as well as on a long-term, basis. The consultation runs from 8 April 2019 to 30 June 2019. All those wishing to respond to the consultation are strongly encouraged to enter their responses electronically through this survey. This makes collation of responses much simpler and quicker. However, the option also exists of sending in a separate response (in hard copy or by other electronic means such as e-mail), and details of how to do so are included in the member's consultation document. Questions marked with an asterisk (*) require an answer. All responses must include a name and contact details. Names will only be published if you give us permission, and contact details are never published – but we may use them to contact you if there is a query about your response. If you do not include a name and/or contact details, we may have to disregard your response. Please note that you must complete the survey in order for your response to be accepted. If you don't wish to complete the survey in a single session, you can choose "Save and Continue later" at any point. Whilst you have the option to skip particular questions, you must continue to the end of the survey and press "Submit" to have your response fully recorded. Please ensure you have read the consultation document before responding to any of the questions that follow. In particular, you should read the information contained in the document about how your response will be handled. The consultation document is available here: [Consultation document Privacy Notice](#)

I confirm that I have read and understood the Privacy Notice attached to this consultation which explains how my personal data will be used

About you

Please choose whether you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation. Note: If you choose "individual" and consent to have the response published, it will appear under your own name. If you choose "on behalf of an organisation" and consent to have the response published, it will be published under the organisation's name.

an individual

Which of the following best describes you? (If you are a professional or academic, but not in a subject relevant to the consultation, please choose "Member of the public".)

Member of the public

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

No Response

Please choose one of the following:

I am content for this response to be published and attributed to me or my organisation

Please provide your name or the name of your organisation. (Note: the name will not be published if you have asked for the response to be anonymous or "not for publication". Otherwise this is the name that will be published with your response).

Jennifer C

Please provide details of a way in which we can contact you if there are queries regarding your response. Email is preferred but you can also provide a postal address or phone number. We will not publish these details.

Aim and Approach

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of establishing a duty to provide a wheelchair to anyone who has been assessed as having a short-term need for one (defined as less than 6 months)?

Fully supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

As a person with MS; CTD; Inflammatory Arthritis, Graves and Addison's disease, I believe that access to a wheelchair for short-term need enables the person with disabilities to engage with their community, in an independent and dignified manner, taking into account the tight economic circumstances that some disabled people find themselves in as a direct result of their health conditions.

Q2. What is your view on setting a target for providing a wheelchair to a person who (a) has been assessed as having a short-term need for one and (b) is otherwise ready to use it?

Target of 24 hours (where practicable)

Please explain the reasons for your response

A target of 24 hours is both achievable and important, as this would allow for the person to be independent and able to engage with their community in a much more time efficient manner, which will significantly benefit the person's sense of mental wellbeing.

Q3. Which of the following best expresses your view of where the Bill should place the duty to provide short-term access to wheelchairs to people assessed as needing them?

Duty placed on NHS Boards

Please explain the reasons for your response.

I think it is reasonable for NHS Boards to take responsibility for implementing short term access to wheelchairs, as medical professionals working within the NHS are more likely to engage with clients/patients who require the use of short term wheelchairs. They are also well placed to assess need,

Q3. Which of the following best expresses your view of where the Bill should place the duty to provide short-term access to wheelchairs to people assessed as needing them?

should this be a requirement for access. As a person with numerous health conditions, I am regularly in contact with NHS professionals involved in my ongoing care, however I do not have any involvement (and would not wish to at this stage) with Health and Social Care Partnerships. Therefore, to reach a wider audience, I feel NHS Boards would be best placed to carry out this duty.

Q4. Which of the following best expresses your view of how further provision about wheelchair access (e.g. assessment criteria and eligibility) should be made?

Ministers should have power to make regulations, give directions, and guidance

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Due to the unfortunate issues that have arose with Self-Directed Support, as a result of LA's implementing general "guidance" rather than having set directions, I feel it would be reasonable and wise for Ministers to be specific in their regulations and give clear directions in which both NHS Boards and/or Integrated Authorities can utilise in order to assess need for short term access to wheelchairs.

Q5. Which of the following best expresses your view of requiring Scottish Ministers to report back to the Parliament on the operation of the legislation?

Duty to report every two years

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Two years is not an unreasonable timeframe in which to report back to Parliament, as it would take time to be implement and evaluate how well the legislation has been applied across all Boards.

Financial Implications

Q6. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have?

	Significant increase in cost	Some increase in cost	Broadly cost-neutral	Some reduction in cost	Significant reduction in cost	Unsure
Government and the public sector (including the NHS, local authorities)			X			
Businesses (including makers and suppliers of wheelchairs)			X			
The third sector (including charities and voluntary bodies supporting those with mobility issues)				X		

Q6. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have?

Individuals (including people with mobility issues and their relatives)						X	
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Equalities

Q7. What overall impact is the proposed Bill likely to have on equality, taking account of the following protected characteristics (under the Equality Act 2010): age, disability, gender re-assignment, maternity and pregnancy, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation?

Positive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

The proposed bill offers an equality of opportunity to disabled people, which accounts for a wider range of disabilities and this will produce a positive, helpful impact on the lives of people with long term conditions and disabilities.

Q8. In what ways could any negative impact of the Bill on equality be minimised or avoided?

No Response

Sustainability

Q9. Do you consider that the proposed Bill can be delivered sustainably, i.e. without having likely future disproportionate economic, social and/or environmental impacts?

Unsure

General

Q10. Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the proposal?

No Response